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Technology Center 2100

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Attorney's Docket No. 1295/01
Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : January 11, 2002
Catherine A. HAALA :
Serial No.: 09/985,734 :
Filed: November 6, 2001 :
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR : Group Art Unit: 2131
OBSTRUCTING A PERSON FROM
NEGOTIATING A TRANSACTION
WITH ANOTHER PERSON, GROUP,
OR ENTITY IN A POPULATION

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.102 AND MPEP § 708.02(XI)**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the above-identified application be advanced out of turn for examination in view of the importance of technology it covers that will counter terrorism and curtail activities involving violent or dangerous acts against human life and property.

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The recent tragic events of September 11, 2001, led the inventor of the present invention, Catherine A. Haala, to devise a system that would significantly improve security.

As a recent article in The Washington Post dated December 17, 2001, entitled "National ID Card Gaining Support" (copy enclosed) noted:

Almost from the day the planes hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, members of Congress, security experts and high-tech executives have endorsed the idea of some new form of identification system as a critical weapon in the fight against terrorism. They believe the cards, linked to giant databases, would be invaluable in preventing terrorists from operating under assumed names and identities. (emphasis added).

See page 2, 4th paragraph.

By way of a non-limiting example, the system of the invention verifies a person's identity, immigration status, background record (criminal, etc.) as a prerequisite to negotiating or entering into a transaction with another person, group, or entity in a population. The system operates by verifying and crosschecking the identity of a person when that person wishes to negotiate any non-financial transaction, or any financial transaction over a predetermined threshold limit, with another person, group, or entity in the population. The person is obstructed from negotiating the transaction in the event a card carried by the person is determined to be inactive, invalid, or expired. (The card would be coded with, for example, background, biometric, expiration, etc., information. For

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instance, a card carried by a citizen in good standing (no criminal record, etc.) would be of unlimited duration, while a card carried by a non-citizen would be of limited/restricted duration.) The inability of the person to negotiate financial and/or non-financial transactions, such as purchasing airline tickets, leasing or purchasing automobiles, seeking education, seeking government benefits, seeking employment, purchasing real estate or other property, immobilizes that person as he/she would be unable to function in a population.

The system of the invention would prevent terrorist and other dangerous acts against human life and property, by disallowing a person from obtaining needed goods and services to commit those acts. In addition, the system offers a very high level of vigilance by law enforcement authorities, as all desired transactions, financial and/or non-financial, could be easily recorded to monitor the activities of a person and to track the whereabouts of that person.

The system of the invention would further improve airport security and provide better anti-terrorist measures. The urgent need and instant acceptance of such security system can be readily judged from the following:

The new enthusiasm for ID cards is not the only example of a changes attitude toward privacy issues. Face recognition systems that link computers and cameras to watch passing crowds spurred so much controversy last summer that many public officials refused to consider using the technology. Now airports across the country are clamoring to test and install such systems. Congress in October approved a sweeping anti-terrorism bill that gives authorities much broader powers to monitor e-mail, listen to

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telephone calls and secretly gather records. And the Bush administration, led by Attorney General John D. Ashcroft, has proposed a series of other measures with wide public support. (emphasis added).

The Washington Post article, supra, at page 3.

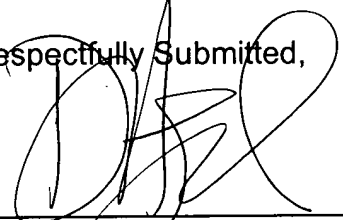
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the above-identified application would counter terrorism, and prompt disclosure thereof to the public is therefore desirable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present application be made special and advanced out of turn for examination.

Attached hereto is a check for \$130.00 to cover the fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(h). It is believed that no additional fee is due for this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 01-0433, and notify the undersigned in due course.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss further this matter,
please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAGARWAL', written over a horizontal line.

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